

5. On the Identification of a Gecko from Penang.
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[Received May 3, 1898.]

GONATODES AFFINIS.

Cyrtodactylus affinis, Stol. Journ. As. Soc. Beng. xxxix. 1870, p. 167, pl. x. fig. 1.

Gymnodactylus affinis, Boul. Cat. Liz. i. p. 42; S. Flower, P. Z. S. 1896, p. 862.

Gonatodes penangensis, S. Flower, P. Z. S. 1896, p. 863, pl. xlv. fig. 1.

In Stoliczka's figure of *Cyrtodactylus affinis* the pupil is represented as vertical, but in his description no mention is made of its shape; taking this figure as correct, the Gecko should be placed in the genus *Gymnodactylus*; but the figure being evidently drawn from a preserved specimen I consider it probable that the vertical pupil may be an addition of the artist, the eye in the original specimen being possibly in a bad state. I described *Gonatodes penangensis* without doubting the correctness of Stoliczka's figure, but since then careful search both by day and night in the locality, Penang Hill, has only shown two species belonging to this section of the Geckonidæ—one *Gymnodactylus pulchellus*, which is quite distinct; the other *Gonatodes penangensis*, which now on comparing with Stoliczka's original description and figure I have no doubt is his *Cyrtodactylus affinis*, the only discrepancy being the above-mentioned vertical pupil. *C. affinis* was described from a single specimen, a female, as Stoliczka mentions, there being no præanal or femoral pores; *G. penangensis* was described from five specimens (three ♂, one ♀, and one young), since then I have examined nine more (six ♂ and three ♀) and seen many others. The name should thus stand as *Gonatodes affinis* (Stol.).

Stoliczka says "shields of head small, those in front slightly enlarged and flattened," this character is not very noticeable; "a small shield above each nostril but not in contact," in one specimen out of nine recently examined they were in contact; he says that none of the chin-shields next the "lower rostral" (=symphysial) are "elongated," in most specimens one pair are, but occasionally these are broken up into small squarish shields, this was probably the case in his specimen; he does not mention the character of the scaling of the lower side of the digits.

His description of the coloration is good, but the wording differs from mine, he mentioning dark bands across the body, while I mention yellow ones; this seeming discrepancy being due to whether one takes the dark parts as bands and the light as inter-spaces or *vice versâ*.

The examination of further specimens confirms my opinion that the sexes do not differ in size or colour.

Largest ♂ measured in total length 109 mm. (snout to vent 49; tail 60).

Largest ♀ measured in total length 103 mm. (snout to vent 47; tail 56).

The number of præanal pores in six males examined was respectively 4, 4, 5, 5, 5, and 6.

Stoliczka's specimen was taken at an elevation of 2400 feet (J. A. S. B. 1870, p. 228); my first specimens were from 2200 feet, but since then I have obtained others from 2400 feet. It is exceptional to find these lizards on trees, their usual haunts being caves among the granite rocks, which are a feature of Penang Hill.

June 7, 1898.

Dr. A. GÜNTHER, F.R.S., Vice-President, in the Chair.

The Secretary read the following report on the additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of May 1898:—

The registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of May 1898 were 128 in number. Of these 78 were acquired by presentation, 16 by purchase, 11 were born in the Gardens, 6 were received by exchange, and 17 on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period, by death and removals, was 101.

Amongst these may be specially noticed:—

(1) A fine young female Mountain Zebra (*Equus zebra*), bred in the Garden of the Zoological Society of Amsterdam, purchased May 4th.

(2) A young male Leucoryx Antelope from Senegal, purchased May 20th.

(3) A young male Reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*) from Newfoundland, presented by the Hon. M. A. Bourke, H.M.S. 'Cordelia,' May 21st. This animal, if it lives to come into good condition and develop a good head, will be of much interest, as it may enable us to appreciate the characters upon which the Reindeer of Newfoundland has lately been separated as a new species under the name of *Rangifer terræ-novæ*¹.

(4) Two Black-necked Swans (*Cygnus nigricollis*), hatched in the Gardens, May 28th. It is now nearly 20 years since we have had a good breeding pair of this lovely Swan in the Gardens. The species is certainly a delicate one, and has not of late years done well with us, having been continually replaced by specimens purchased on the Continent. Fresh imported birds of this species would be very desirable, as most of the birds on sale nowadays have been bred in Egypt.

¹ See O. Bangs, 'Description of Newfoundland Caribou,' Boston, 1896. J. A. Allen, Bull. Amer. Mus. viii. p. 233 (1896).